

The Nixon Nucleus: Seven Guys & a Gal

By PAUL HEALY
(News Convention Bureau)

(Chicago, July 27.—The inner Nixon "team"—seven men and a woman—which brought him today to the edge



James Bassett, Herbert Klein and Attorney General William Rogers.

of a Presidential nomination, is smart, practical, professional, dedicated and comparatively young.

The seven men are Robert H. Finch, Leonard W. Hall, Herbert G. Klein, James R. Shepley, William P. Rogers, James Bassett and John Folger. The woman is Rose Mary Woods, Nixon's pretty, red-haired executive secretary.

Kennedy Counterparts

The key Nixon aids form a contrast to the brain trust surrounding the Democratic Presidential nominee, Sen. Jack Kennedy. Kennedy relies on a cluster of smooth and highly efficient assistants.



Leonard W. Hall and John C. Shepley.

barring Negroes from voting in elections.

The Fiscal Chief

Shepley is new to Nixon's inner circle but has known Nixon for a long time. He was chief of correspondents for Time and Life magazines when Nixon drafted him last year to become his principal research and idea man. Shepley contributed the controversial word "growthmanship," to a recent Nixon speech to try to debunk the claim that the U. S. economy has not been growing fast enough.

Folger, 61, is a Washington, D. C., investment banker and Nixon's financial chairman. He has served as ambassador to Belgium during the Eisenhower regime. Folger staged the first nationwide salute to the dinner

in 1958 and raised \$2 million with it. He volunteered his money-raising talents the day Sen. Hall opened a five-story secret Nixon campaign headquarters in Washington in late 1958.

Bassett, 48, is a smooth-looking bespectacled native of Glendale, Calif., and onetime city editor of the Los Angeles Mirror-News. He served as Nixon's chief press aide in the 1956 campaign, but is currently a strategy planner and "writer-and-dealer."

Rose Mary Woods, 41, is a secretary extraordinary. Day in and day out, Miss Woods sees "the boss" more often than anyone else. She presides over a battery of secondary secretaries in a dank hideaway behind an unmarked door in the basement of the Capitol, but is instantly available to "the boss" at any time.

Woods and other big names in the Nixon White House before attending to talk with Nixon. Having been at Nixon's side through the years since 1951, she is perhaps the only virtually indispensable member of the staff. She is a close friend of Nixon.

The man closest to Nixon is Finch, his 35-year-old assistant. Significantly, Finch was the only lieutenant that Nixon consulted before he slipped off to his rendezvous in New York with Gov. Rockefeller for their 14-point agreement last Friday. Finch is a prosperous Inglewood, Calif., lawyer.

Klein, 42, also on intimate day-to-day terms with the Vice President, is his press secretary. He gave up a good job as editor of the San Diego Union on Nixon's insistence that he needed him for the campaign.

Len. Hall, former Republican national chairman, is Nixon's campaign manager. Big and bluff, Hall, the top pro on the team. He is a former Congressman from Oyster Bay, L. I., who was

